

Message Text

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64

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-12 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 DHA-02 ORM-02 OMB-01 /085 W

----- 065984

R 251406Z MAY 76

FM AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5242

INFO AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAPE TOWN 0648

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SF, SHUM, PINS, US, PFOR

SUBJ: STATEMENT ON TRANSKEIAN CITIZENSHIP

REFS: DURBAN 165, DURBAN 183

1. SUMMARY: TRASKEIAN CITIZENSHIP ISSUE WILL BECOME FOCAL POINT OF INCREASED INTERNATIONAL ATTENTION AS TRANSKEIAN INDEPENDENCE APPROACHES IN OCTOBER. SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT'S PLAN TO REMOVE S.A. CITIZENSHIP, WITHOUT RECOURSE, FROM LARGE NUMBERS OF AFRICANS WITH TRANSKEIAN ETHNIC TIES IS LOGICAL EXTENSION OF APARTHEID SYSTEM WHICH WE HAVE CONSISTENTLY CONDEMNED. IT IS IN OUR BEST INTEREST TO MAKE CLEAR STATEMENT NOW EXPRESSING VIEW THAT SAG'S POSITION ON CITIZENSHIP ISSUE VIOLATES HUMAN RIGHTS AND IF MAINTAINED WILL SERVE AS MAJOR, BUT NOT ONLY, OBSTACLE TO RECOGNITION OF INDEPENDENT TRANSKEI. END SUMMARY.

2. AS REFTELS HAVE INDICATED, SAG AND TRANSKEIAN GOVERNMENT DIFFER IN VIEW OVER WHO SHALL BE CONSIDERED A TRANSKEIAN CITIZEN. ISSUE IS COMPLEX, BUT AT BASE SAG MAINTAINS THAT ALL AFRICANS WITH ETHNIC TIES TO TRIBES IN TRANSKEI WILL BE CONSIDERED CITIZENS OF THAT INDEPENDENT CONFIDENTIAL

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HOMELAND. AFRICANS WHO DO NOT WISH TO ACCEPT SUCH CITIZEN-

SHIP WILL, IN THE SAG'S VIEW, BECOME "STATELESS", HAVING LOST ALL CLAIM TO S.A. CITIZENSHIP. LEGISLATION MAY BE INTRODUCED IN PARLIAMENT IN NEAR FUTURE TO MAKE THIS EXPLICIT.

3. SUCH ACTION WOULD APPEAR TO BE CLEAR VIOLATION OF UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS WHICH STATES THAT NO INDIVIDUAL SHALL BE ARBITRARILY DENIED HIS NATIONALITY. IT IS, HOWEVER, A LOGICAL EXTENSION OF THE NATIONAL PARTY'S APARTHEID OR "SEPARATE DEVELOPMENT" PHILOSOPHY WHICH HOLDS THAT AFRICANS ARE ONLY TEMPORARY, FOREIGN SOJOURNERS IN SA'S "WHITE" AREA.

4. USG'S POSITION IS CONSISTENTLY CONDEMNING APARTHEID SHOULD BE EXTENDED TO A SPECIFIC CONDEMNATION OF THE SAG'S PLAN TO EXPATRIATE ITS BLACK CITIZENS. SUCH A STATEMENT WOULD SERVE VARIOUS PURPOSES. FIRST, IT MIGHT IN SOME WAY DEFLECT SAG FROM ITS CURRENT INTENTION. (THOUGH IT MUST BE ADMITTED THAT CHANCES OF ACHIEVING THIS ARE SLIGHT.) SECONDLY, STATEMENT MIGHT STIFFEN BACKBONE OF TRANSKEIAN AUTHORITIES TO MAINTAIN THEIR POSITION ON CITIZENSHIP ISSUE AND NOT CAPITULATE. (IT IMPERATIVE, HOWEVER, THAT STATEMENT NOT RPT NOT GIVE INDICATION THAT WE ARE FULLY SUPPORTIVE OF TRANSKEIAN POSITION OR AUTHORITIES.) FINALLY, SUCH A DECLARATION BY US AT THIS TIME WOULD FAVORABLY INFLUENCE SOUTH AFRICAN BLACKS AND OTHERS IN THIRD WORLD AND REINFORCE SECRETARY'S THEME THAT PEACEFUL SOLUTION OF SOUTHER AFRICAN PROBLEMS MUST BE ARRIVED AT BY BLACKS AND WHITES WORKING TOGETHER AND NOT BY UNILATERAL DECISIONS OF MINORITY GOVERNMENTS.

5. WE SUGGEST, THEREFORE, THAT DEPARTMENT PREPARE STATEMENT ALONG FOLLOWING LINES FOR USE AT APPROPRIATE OCCASION:

"THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT HAS ON MANY OCCASIONS CONDEMNED THE PRINCIPLES OF APARTHEID OR "SEPARATE DEVELOPMENT". WE WOULD LIKE TO MAKE IT CLEAR AT THIS TIME THAT ANY UNILATERAL EXPATRIATION OF BLACK SOUTH AFRICAN CITIZENS WITH ETHNIC TIE TO GROUPS LIVING

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WITHIN THE BOUNDARIES OF A GIVEN HOMELAND WOULD BE, IN OUR VIEW, MORALLY REPREHENSIBLE, AND THAT ANY HOMELAND WHICH ACCEPTED SO-CALLED INDEPENDENCE ON SUCH A PREMISE WOULD BE UNACCEPTABLE TO THE WORLD COMMUNITY."

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INDEPENDENCE, POLICIES, HUMAN RIGHTS, CITIZENSHIP STATUS, TRANSKEI
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 25 MAY 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: buchant0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976CAPET00648
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760203-0686
From: CAPE TOWN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760518/aaaaaozi.tel
Line Count: 112
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 DURBAN 165, 76 DURBAN 183
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: buchant0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01 JUL 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <01 JUL 2004 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <15 OCT 2004 by buchant0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: STATEMENT ON TRANSKEIAN CITIZENSHIP
TAGS: SHUM, PINS, PFOR, SF, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006